

Message Text

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ORIGIN SS-25

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----- 049498

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

S E C R E T STATE 056371

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, PFOR, TW

SUBJECT: RECONNAISSANCE CAMERA SYSTEMS FOR THE ROC

1. WE CONTINUE TO RECEIVE APPLICATIONS FROM U.S. COMPANIES TO SELL SOPHISTICATED LONG-RANGE RECONNAISSANCE CAMERA SYSTEMS (LOROP) TO THE CHINESE AIR FORCE. THERE HAVE BEEN AT LEAST TEN SUCH REQUESTS OVER THE PAST YEAR -- 5 BY BOURNS, INC./CAI DIVISION, 3 BY ITEK, 1 BY FAIRCHILD AND 1 BY ACTRON. WE HAVE EITHER HELD OR TURNED DOWN THESE REQUESTS, WITH THE SINGLE EXCEPTION OF A BOURNS APPLICATION TO RELEASE ONLY THE TECHNICAL DATA ON A RECONNAISSANCE SYSTEM WITH SIGNIFICANT STAND-OFF RECON CAPABILITY.

2. WE HAVE OPPOSED SUCH REQUESTS BECAUSE WE BELIEVE THAT THEY SHOULD NOT BE HANDLED THROUGH NORMAL COMMERCIAL CHANNELS, BUT RATHER ON A GOVERNMENT-TO-GOVERNMENT BASIS.

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3. WE INTEND TO CONTINUE TURNING DOWN OUTSTANDING AND FUTURE REQUESTS FROM U.S. COMPANIES. SHOULD THE ROC

APPROACH US DIRECTLY, WE WOULD REQUEST COUNTRY TEAM
VIEWS AND REVIEW OUR POSITION. SUCH A REVIEW WOULD
TAKE INTO ACCOUNT OUR RELUCTANCE TO ENCOURAGE OR BECOME
FURTHER INVOLVED IN ROC ACTIVITIES ALONG THE CHINA
COAST WHICH RUN A HIGH RISK OF PROVOKING THE PRC. KISSINGER

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